

# What Does AWS Certification Do?

## Benefits, Career Impact, Salary Potential, and Industry Value in 2026

**What does AWS certification do?** AWS certification validates your cloud computing skills, demonstrates your ability to work with Amazon Web Services, and helps employers verify your technical knowledge. In 2026, AWS certifications remain among the most recognized cloud credentials in the technology industry, helping professionals improve job opportunities, increase earning potential, and build credibility in cloud-related roles.

As businesses continue moving applications, databases, and infrastructure to the cloud, demand for AWS professionals remains strong. Organizations need skilled individuals who can design, deploy, secure, and manage cloud environments. AWS certifications provide a standardized way to prove those abilities.

Whether you are a beginner entering the cloud industry or an experienced IT professional seeking career growth, understanding what AWS certification does can help you decide if it is worth pursuing.

## What Is AWS Certification?

AWS Certification is a credential program offered by Amazon Web Services (AWS), the world's largest cloud computing provider.

The certification program measures knowledge and practical skills across different cloud disciplines, including:

- Cloud architecture
- Security
- Networking
- DevOps
- Machine learning
- Data analytics
- Software development

Candidates must pass an examination to earn certification.

AWS certifications are available at different levels:

<b>Level</b>	<b>Examples</b>
Foundational	AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner
Associate	Solutions Architect Associate, Developer Associate, SysOps Administrator Associate
Professional	Solutions Architect Professional, DevOps Engineer Professional
Specialty	Security, Machine Learning, Advanced Networking, Data Analytics

Official AWS Certification Portal: <https://aws.amazon.com/certification/>

## What Does AWS Certification Do for Your Career?

One of the biggest benefits of AWS certification is career advancement.

Many employers use certifications to identify candidates with verified cloud skills.

AWS certification can help you:

- Stand out in job applications
- Increase interview opportunities
- Demonstrate cloud expertise
- Improve professional credibility
- Support career transitions into cloud computing

Cloud adoption continues growing worldwide.

According to Amazon Web Services, millions of active customers use AWS services, including startups, government agencies, and large enterprises.

This widespread adoption creates strong demand for AWS-certified professionals.

## How AWS Certification Helps You Get Cloud Jobs?

Many hiring managers view AWS certification as evidence that a candidate understands cloud concepts and services.

Common job roles include:

### **Cloud Engineer**

Cloud engineers build and manage cloud infrastructure.

Responsibilities often include:

- Server deployment
- Resource management
- Cloud monitoring
- Automation

## **Solutions Architect**

Solutions architects design cloud environments that meet business needs.

Responsibilities may include:

- Infrastructure planning
- Cost management
- Security architecture
- Application migration

## **DevOps Engineer**

DevOps professionals automate deployment processes and manage cloud operations.

They often work with:

- CI/CD pipelines
- Infrastructure as Code
- Monitoring tools
- Container platforms

## **Cloud Security Specialist**

Security specialists protect cloud environments from threats and unauthorized access.

AWS Security Specialty certification often appeals to professionals pursuing this path.

## **Does AWS Certification Increase Salary?**

Many professionals pursue AWS certification because of its earning potential.

Cloud computing remains one of the highest-paying technology sectors.

While salaries vary by country, industry, and experience level, AWS-certified professionals often earn higher salaries than non-certified peers in similar roles.

## **Typical AWS Career Salary Ranges**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Average Salary Range</b>
Cloud Engineer	\$80,000–\$140,000
Solutions Architect	\$120,000–\$180,000+
DevOps Engineer	\$110,000–\$170,000
Cloud Security Engineer	\$120,000–\$190,000

Salary depends on factors such as:

- Experience
- Technical skills
- Industry
- Location
- Additional certifications

Certification alone does not guarantee a higher salary, but it can strengthen your market value.

## **Why AWS Certification Matters in 2026?**

Cloud computing remains a major driver of technology investment.

According to the World Economic Forum Future of Jobs Report 2025, technology skills including cloud computing, cybersecurity, AI, and data analytics continue ranking among the fastest-growing areas of employer demand.

Companies continue moving workloads from on-premises infrastructure to cloud environments because cloud platforms offer:

- Greater scalability
- Improved reliability
- Faster deployment
- Better resource management

AWS remains the largest cloud provider globally, making AWS skills highly relevant across industries.

## **What Skills Do AWS Certifications Teach?**

AWS certification preparation develops both technical knowledge and practical understanding.

Topics often include:

## **Cloud Architecture**

Learners study:

- Virtual networks
- Compute services
- Storage solutions
- High availability design

## **Security**

Security concepts include:

- Identity and Access Management (IAM)
- Encryption
- Compliance controls
- Security monitoring

## **Cost Management**

AWS professionals learn how to:

- Reduce unnecessary spending
- Monitor cloud costs
- Select appropriate services

## **Disaster Recovery**

Students learn methods for:

- Data backup
- System recovery
- Business continuity

These skills remain valuable across a wide range of technology careers.

## **AWS Certification for Beginners**

Many people entering technology wonder whether AWS certification is suitable for newcomers.

The AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner certification serves as an entry-level option.

This certification introduces:

- Cloud concepts

- AWS services
- Security basics
- Pricing models

It requires less technical experience than associate-level certifications.

For beginners transitioning from support roles, networking, or system administration, it provides a useful starting point.

## **AWS Certification and Online Learning Platforms**

Many professionals prepare for AWS certification using online learning platforms.

Popular options include:

- Pluralsight
- Coursera
- Udemy
- LinkedIn Learning
- A Cloud Guru
- AWS Skill Builder

These platforms provide:

- Practice exams
- Video courses
- Hands-on labs
- Learning paths

When evaluating technical learning subscriptions, many learners also search for ways to reduce training costs. This guide on [how to get Pluralsight at a lower price](#) explains different strategies learners use when comparing subscription options and certification preparation resources.

## **Who May Not Need AWS Certification?**

AWS certification delivers strong value for many professionals, but it is not the best choice for everyone.

Some individuals may benefit more from focusing on different technical paths such as:

- Software development
- Data science
- Product management
- UI/UX design

- Digital marketing

Those evaluating learning platforms and career paths can review [who should look elsewhere](#) to determine whether cloud-focused training aligns with their goals.

Choosing the right certification should depend on career objectives rather than industry trends alone.

## **AWS Certification vs College Degrees**

A common question involves whether AWS certification can replace a college degree.

The answer is usually no.

A degree and certification serve different purposes.

### **Degrees Focus On**

- Academic foundations
- Theory
- Broad subject knowledge

### **Certifications Focus On**

- Practical skills
- Industry tools
- Job-ready knowledge

Many employers value both.

Professionals who combine formal education with industry certifications often create stronger career opportunities.

## **Common AWS Certifications and Their Uses**

### **AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner**

Best for:

- Beginners
- Non-technical professionals
- Sales and management roles

### **AWS Certified Solutions Architect Associate**

Best for:

- Cloud architects
- Infrastructure professionals
- System administrators

## **AWS Certified Developer Associate**

Best for:

- Application developers
- Backend engineers

## **AWS Certified DevOps Engineer Professional**

Best for:

- Experienced cloud professionals
- Automation specialists

## **AWS Certified Security Specialty**

Best for:

- Cybersecurity professionals
- Cloud security engineers

Each certification targets different career goals and experience levels.

## **Is AWS Certification Worth It in 2026?**

For most cloud-focused professionals, AWS certification remains a worthwhile investment.

Benefits include:

- Increased credibility
- Better job opportunities
- Stronger cloud knowledge
- Higher earning potential
- Access to growing industries

The value becomes even greater when certification is paired with practical experience, hands-on projects, and continuous learning.

# Conclusion

**AWS certification validates cloud computing skills, improves professional credibility, supports career growth, and helps employers identify qualified cloud professionals.** As cloud adoption continues expanding across industries, AWS-certified individuals remain well-positioned for roles involving cloud architecture, infrastructure management, DevOps, and security.

Certification alone does not guarantee employment or higher pay. The strongest candidates combine AWS credentials with practical experience, technical projects, and ongoing skill development.

For anyone pursuing a cloud computing career in 2026, AWS certification remains one of the most respected and valuable credentials available.

## Helpful Resources

### Official AWS Resources

- AWS Certification Portal  
<https://aws.amazon.com/certification/>
- AWS Skill Builder  
<https://skillbuilder.aws/>

### Industry Research

- World Economic Forum Future of Jobs Report 2025  
<https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-future-of-jobs-report-2025/>
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Technology Occupations  
<https://www.bls.gov/>
- CompTIA State of the Tech Workforce  
<https://www.comptia.org/>